

## Checklist for Planning Your Trip

- ☐ I made a reservation.
- ☐ I know the total cost.
- ☐ This visit is tied into my classroom curriculum.
- ☐ I know how to get there.
- ☐ I will tell the bus drivers to drop my students off in front of the Interpretive Center.
- ☐ If I am using the picnic area, I will reserve it.
- ☐ I will bring my driver's license if paying by check.
- ☐ I know whether or not my group has scheduled a naturalist-led program.
- ☐ I know that the park is on Eastern Daylight Savings Time from April - October.
- ☐ I am aware the Interpretive Center hours are 9 AM to 5 PM.
- ☐ I have attended a teacher orientation
  - or -
- ☐ I will sign the Park / School agreement.

# DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Interpretive Services  
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs

# 2003 Educators' Guide to the Falls of the Ohio State Park



## *New Programs at the George Rogers Clark Homesite*

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# Quick glance: Falls Trip Planner

<b>Interpretive Center</b>	Open daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas
<b>Outdoor Programs</b>	May 1 - Mid November
<b>Indoor Programs</b>	Mid November - April 30
<b>Picnicking (no indoor facilities)</b>	April 1 - October 31
<b>Fossil Beds Exposed</b>	Mid June - Mid December (best August - November)
<b>Special Events</b>	Check the park's web page for a current program guide.

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## Geology

**K-3 Outdoor Fossil Lab:** Provides students with the opportunity to study and explore rocks and fossils on the river bank and see fossils on the fossil beds. (Maximum of 125 students.)

**4th -12th Outdoor Fossil Lab:** Students will map part of the fossil beds to get a close-up view of the Devonian fossils found here. (Maximum of 125 students.) **Note:** Logistics prevent us from offering outdoor labs for a group with more than 125 students. However, we offer hikes on the fossil beds for larger groups.

**K-2 Indoor Fossil Lab:** What creatures lives in the Devonian sea? This lab explores fossils and modern sea life. Students make a colorful Devonian ocean scene. (Maximum of 90 students.)

**4th - 12th Indoor Fossil Lab:** Provides a unique discovery experience where students discover how marine fossils lived. They dig for fossils which can go back to the school. (Maximum of 90 students.)

**Geology Activity Sheets** are available for students as part of the geology program packet, inquire when you make your reservation.

**Field Paleontology Institute** is a summer teacher in-service opportunity.

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## History

**Clark's Point Programs:** We focus on life on the frontier in 1803 highlighting George Rogers Clark and the start of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Explore a representation of Clark's log cabin with programs, including re-enactors, from April through November.

**Interpretive Center:** A 20 minute movie explores the local connection of recruits to the Lewis and Clark expedition. It is regularly shown at 1:00PM and 3:00PM and can be shown at other times with your group's reservation.

**Indoor Lab for all grades: Tools and Foodways of Prehistoric Peoples** is a hands-on experience available for up to 90 students. Each lab holds up to 30 students and provides a glimpse into the lives of people that lived in the area as long as 13,000 years ago, using a variety of artifact reproductions.

**History Activity Sheets** are available for students scheduled for the lab described above.

**Project Archaeology** is an annual summer teacher in-service.

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## Kids Corner

... is a learning and activity center for children from headstart to 1st grade, which offers discovery and storytelling activities. Kids Corner can hold 20 children at a time. Call for more information about activities.

## Outdoor Opportunities

The fossil beds may be explored with a naturalist or on your own. Naturalist-led hikes fill up more than six months in advance, so call ahead. Educators that schedule a program without a naturalist guide will be sent a "Discovering Fossils" brochure which may be copied and distributed to students or chaperones. Advanced-level fossil brochures may be requested. Wildflower and Woodland Trail brochures are available upon request.

## Collecting at the Park...

...is not permitted, because the Falls has been designated as a National Wildlife Conservation Area. Fossils, rocks of any type, plants, mollusk shells, live animals, etc. are protected.

## What is the policy with "drop in" groups - when I am not doing a naturalist-led program?

Groups coming to visit the state park, with or without a scheduled naturalist-led program *must* make a reservation! "Drop-in groups" will *not* be permitted to use the primary park fossil beds or enter the Interpretive Center if there are groups already scheduled. Surprise groups unintentionally interfere with existing programs and overload our small rest rooms and limited picnic grounds. Such groups will be directed to use Ashland Park, 1/2 mile east on Riverside Drive. Remember - make a reservation to visit the fossil beds, Interpretive Center or picnic grounds!

## Orientation Theater

A 14 minute state-of-the-art audio visual program awaits visitors of the Interpretive Center. This wonderful show reviews the content of the exhibit gallery. It features truly unique underwater photography of a "Devonian" coral reef, and traces the history of the Falls to the present day.

## Exhibits and Aquariums

The Interpretive Center contains a unique exhibit gallery which is focused on the 400 million year history of Falls of the Ohio. By viewing dioramas, videos, aquariums and other exhibits, the visitor is fully immersed in the natural and cultural history of the Falls. Exhibits begin with the Middle Devonian, when this area was under a warm, tropical sea. Additional topics include the land forms, the ice age, archaeology and native peoples, settlement period and civil war, as well as the development of technology and industry in the Falls Cities area. Aquariums focus on living coral reefs and Ohio River fish. Activity sheets enhance students' learning experience. Develop your own or use ours.

## A.D.A. Accessibility

**Mobility impaired:** The Interpretive Center has designed to be completely wheelchair accessible. The auditorium accommodates up to eight wheelchairs at one time. A wheelchair ramp links the main parking lot with the top of the fossil beds.

**Hearing impaired:** The theater presentation is available with closed caption and audio transmission directly to visitors. Call us for details.

**Visually impaired:** The theater has an audio descriptive channel, which allows visitors to hear descriptions of the visual images on the screen.

## How do I schedule my visit?

Call us Tuesday - Saturday between 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM at (812) 280-9970, extension 405. Have several dates in mind, because our morning group schedule tends to fill up six months in advance. (We can reserve your schedule up to a year in advance.) Hint: We have fewer groups arriving after 12:00 PM.

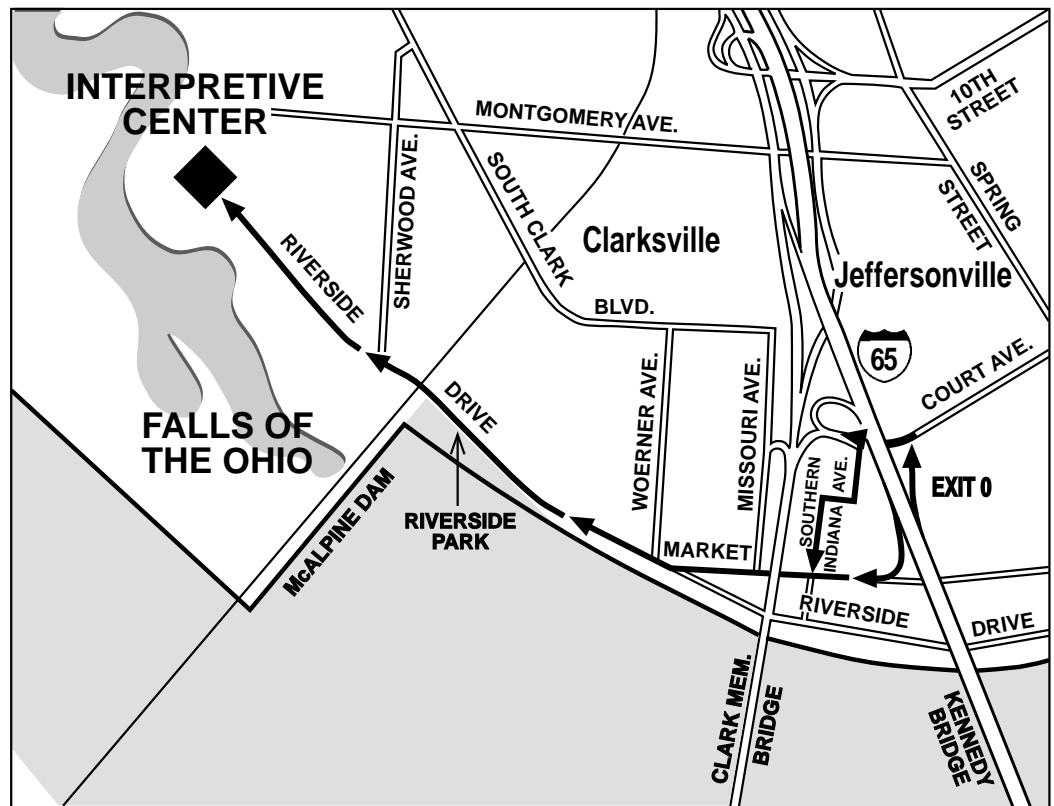
# How to get to the Falls of the Ohio State Park

## I-65 heading north:

Take the first exit after crossing the Kennedy Bridge (Exit 0). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp. Turn left at the brown "Falls" sign (North Shore Dr.). Turn left at the stop sign onto Southern Indiana Ave. Turn right at the stop sign on to Market St.. Veer right at the next stop sign. Follow Riverside Drive to the Interpretive Center. Do not go over the levee!

## Clark Bridge north:

Take first right and the end of the bridge. Turn right at the "Yield" sign. Turn right at the stop sign (Market St.). Veer right at the next stop sign. Follow Riverside Drive to the Interpretive Center. Do not go over the levee!



## I-65 heading south:

Take Exit 0 (Jeffersonville). Veer right at second stop sign. Follow Riverside Drive to the Interpretive Center. Do not go over the levee!

## When you arrive...

... please instruct the drivers to pull the buses into the pull-around circle in front of the Interpretive Center. It is much quicker to unload the students and bring them into the building and can make a difference between missing and

making your assigned movie time. If your bus driver(s) plan to stay with your group, they should park the buses in the parking lot behind the Center. After your visit, please load the buses in the parking lot after exiting from the River Observation Room.

## Resource Trunks

We have several trunks that can be borrowed for us in the classroom.

- *Fossils*
- *Zebra Mussel / Invasive Species*
- *River Ecology Trunk*
- *Computer-based Learning Lab - Water Quality Testing - Transpiration Rates - Orienteering at the Falls*

Please call us for a complete description and procedures to borrow a kit.

## Educator Handbook

It contains over 50 pages of information and activities for before, during and after your visit. Indiana and Kentucky education standards that are met through programs at our park are included. This updated handbook was compiled by Dr. Francis Squires, Indiana University Southeast and was published by the Louisville Water Company. It is available to educators bringing a group to the park and attending an orientation. If you are located more than an hour away from the park, it will be mailed when you schedule your group.